

*Sorry - Please note correction
below*

P.O. Box 269
Ridgefield, CT 06877

March 2, 2009

Chairman DeFronzo
Chairman Guerra
Ranking Member Boucher
Ranking Member Scribner
Other Distinguished Members
Transportation Committee

RE: Support for SB434B

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen:

There is only one shovel that is ready for use in connection with the Route 7 limited access highway, a.k.a. "Super 7", and that is the shovel which should finally be used to dig a deep grave for this ill-begotten project so as to put it to rest permanently.

Over the past decade or longer, the Transportation Committee has heard testimony from numerous individuals, boards and commissions, primarily but not exclusively from the mid corridor towns of Redding, Ridgefield and Wilton, clearly delineating the environmental, fiscal, societal and general quality of life issues which, when considered separately or as a body, militate powerfully against construction of Super 7 now or in the future. You have all heard or read the past testimony to which I refer, so I will not repeat it - except for one cogent point.

The Ridgefield Plan of Conservation and Development on page 33, Greenbelts and Greenways, states:

" Much, if not most, of the land proposed for the Sugar Hollow Greenway is presently owned by the State of Connecticut, it having been acquired formerly when a proposed Route 7 Expressway had been considered viable. The Ridgefield Planning and Zoning Commission has since eliminated the proposed Route 7 Expressway from this Plan and has endorsed the Sugar Hollow Greenway. Accordingly, dialogue with the State should be pursued to determine the most appropriate and effective means for transferring and dedicating former expressway parcels to the Sugar Hollow Greenway."

I would request that the legislative intent pertaining to the "sale" of Super 7 parcels encompass "transfer" when and if necessary to implement the Sugar Hollow ~~Greenway~~ ^{Greenway} portions thereof, at least regarding undeveloped parcels. Having said this, I place my trust in the long-term vision and wisdom of those crafting the legislation to make the right decision fiscally and environmentally on behalf of your constituents and, on this basis, strongly support SB 434B.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Ambori

C: Rebecca Mucchetti. Chair, Ridgefield Planning and Zoning Commission